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Message Text

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64
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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01

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TO USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: QRS CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

REF: MTN GENEVA 6553

PASS WALKER

1. IN RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN LETTER (REFTEL), WASHINGTON AGENCIES SUGGEST SUBSTANCE OF RESPONSE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.
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2. THE U.S. DEL WELCOMES THE AUSTRALIAN WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ITS IMPORT LICENSING CONTROLS MAINTAINED ON SECOND-HAND EARTHMOVING, EXCAVATING, AND MATERIALS-HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND THE SCREEN-TIME QUOTAS ON RECORDED TELEVISION PROGRAMS.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE ARTICLE XIX CONSULTATIONS IN JULY AND CONSIDERING THE INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE OF THE BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, AS DESCRIBED IN THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUBGROUP, THE U.S. AGREES THAT THE AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND IRON AND STEEL SHEET AND PLATE NEED NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THE U.S. VIEW IS THAT ALL QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS FALL WITHIN THE COMPETENCY OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUBGROUP. THE U.S., THEREFORE, RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO BRING UP THESE ITEMS AT SOME LATER DATE.

4. THE U.S. REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA REGARDING TOBACCO RELATED TO THE AUSTRALIAN MIXING REGULATIONS AND NOT TO THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF ON TOBACCO. THE U.S. HAS NOTIFIED THE AUSTRALIAN MIXING REGULATION BECAUSE THE MIXING REGULATION HAS SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITED U.S. EXPORTS OF TOBACCO. THIS IS SUBSTANTIATED BY THE FACT THAT, AS THE PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC LEAF REQUIRED BY THE MIXING REGULATION HAS INCREASED, IMPORTS HAVE DECREASED. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL COUNTRIES' MIXING REGULATIONS APPEAR IN THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP AND IN THE INVENTORY OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES. FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REASONS, THE U.S. REGARDS THE AUSTRALIAN MIXING REGULATION TO FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUBGROUP. THEREFORE, THE U.S. URGES AUSTRALIA TO TAKE UP THIS SUBJECT DURING THE CONSULTATIONS. INGERSOLL

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